

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Abrogation of 17 May Agreement — The Lebanese cabinet, in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, announced its decision to cancel the 17 May agreement with Israel. According to the decision, the government will take steps to establish security measures and arrangements to ensure sovereignty, security, and stability in southern Lebanon in order to prevent infiltration through the southern borders and achieve the withdrawal of Israeli forces. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan agreed to retract the resignation of his government for a short period pending the formation of a national unity government.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad subsequently telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil to congratulate and thank him for abrogating the agreement, emphasizing that the action is a victory for the Lebanese and Syrian peoples, Damascus radio reported. On the other hand, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denounced the Lebanese decision in a statement issued by his communications adviser and reported by IDF Radio. Asserting that Lebanon's "capitulation" to the Syrian "diktat" spells the end of its independence and sovereignty, the statement stressed that Israel remains ready to implement the 17 May agreement but will seek appropriate ways to guarantee its security while continuing to feel friendship for the Lebanese people. Israel will be obliged to drop the Lebanese Army from its plans for security arrangements in southern Lebanon and make do with the assistance of local groups like the Christian militia, according to security sources cited by IDF Radio. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, in an interview with the radio, called on Shamir's government to "unilaterally and immediately" implement the clauses in the Israeli-Lebanese agreement pertaining to the security of Israel's northern border, adding that Israel should make it clear that if the "terrorists" attempt to return to southern Lebanon, the IDF will cross the border, repel them, and return home.

Phalange Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil said the cabinet's decision was "forseeable" and one among several steps "which should be reached with the United States, France, Israel, and all states concerned" with events in Lebanon to guarantee an end to the war, Beirut radio reported. Pierre al-Jumayyil also chaired a meeting of the Phalange Political Bureau and Central Council which expressed "absolute confidence" in Amin al-Jumayyil and affirmed support for his efforts to find "radical solutions" to the Lebanese crisis, according to the radio.

However, the Command Council of the Lebanese Forces, in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, rejected the government's "submissive decision imposed by the Syrian assault against the free Lebanese people" and called for a unified Christian stand to resist "all the Syrian policies which will be imposed on the Lebanese Government." Such resistance is a "sacred duty" to the principles for which Bashir al-Jumayyil was martyred, the statement contended.

Security/Military Situation — Beirut and its environs were calm early on 6 March and an official cease-fire declaration is imminent, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported. The previous evening, officials of the Progressive Socialist Party, the Amal Movement, and the "patriotic army" decided at a meeting in Beirut to maintain a cease-fire and consolidate security in West Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian soldier died in a Stockholm hospital on 5 March after receiving severe burns on more than half his body from Iraqi "chemical bombings" in the southern battlefronts, IRNA reported. However, the Iraqi commander of the east Tigris forces in remarks cited by INA said Iraq had used only "conventional weapons which are internationally acknowledged" to defend its territory. The "heavy casualties" suffered by the Iranian forces resulted from the intense Iraqi firepower and the roughness of the terrain, the commander added. IRNA maintained that the Iraqi military commander had "implicitly admitted" use of chemical weapons when he told reporters that if Iraq had any such weapons in stock, it would have been "quite reasonable if they were used against the Iranian forces in the recent offensive."

Meanwhile, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, in comments reported by IRNA, said that the current "highly promising" military operations against Iraq will continue. For this reason, "public mobilization" in terms of manpower and money must likewise continue, he stressed. Iran will not let the tempo of the war slacken nor will it concentrate its forces in a single part of the war front but will instead attack from any point it wishes.

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President Karmal Speaks at PDPA Plenum*LD040821 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0423 GMT 4 Mar 84*

[Text] Kabul, March 3, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal has said that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan pursues a foreign policy of peace, although this does not amount to being passive as regards the defence of the country.

The general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in his speech at the 13th plenum of the PDPA CC described the foreign policy of the DRA as an active and dynamic peace policy.

Babrak Karmal in his speech focused on two major issues: intensification of the struggle against counter-revolution and the ever-further strengthening of state power.

He said: "We have strengthened and will strengthen the army, police and state information security services. This is essential only for the complete and decisive elimination of counter-revolution, defence of the freedom, independence, and national sovereignty of the country as well as defence of the revolution. We do not have any other objective." On behalf of the PDPA and the people, Babrak Karmal said: I once again declare that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will never be the source of threat to the neighbouring countries or other countries.

But the enemies of our revolution have not yet laid down their arms. This situation compels us to continue our defence work consistently and persistently. We have brought about necessary structural changes in the military organisations and have created the army, police and the security forces of the new type. Their quantity and quality are being raised and they are being better equipped technically and in respect of combat preparedness.

Many successful military operations have taken place during the current year, Babrak Karmal went on. These operations have inflicted crushing blows against the counter-revolution. These have foiled their plans of aggravating the situation in the country. We can say with confidence and pride that our revolution defends itself against all kinds of mischief done by the enemies. Let none of them be hopeful of escaping punishment. But anyone who realises the futility of the campaign against the revolution, the people and the country can expect compassion and justice.

Babrak Karmal noted that the most important issue for the party is to ensure the organic unity of the party, to eradicate apathy, petty group interests, and the obstructionist attitudes, lack of cooperation, selfishness, ambitiousness and obstinacy which unfortunately still exist. "I emphatically and explicitly point out that struggle against such manifestations has been in words rather than deed. The new phase means replacement of word by deed, which means a joint practical work for the execution of the party decisions," he went on to say.

Babrak Karmal pointed out that the demands of the new phase are not only directed at the inner party life but to other spheres as well. "We must move from word to deed in state administration, in carrying out socio-economic transformations, in the execution of water and land reforms, in ensuring security, improving people's life and development of industry, agriculture,

commerce, transport and communications and bringing down prices. These must be accomplished in such a way that in the course of one year their impact may be tangible and be felt by the working people."

Babrak Karmal referred to the growth and consolidation of the armed forces and said that the party had been sending its best representatives to the ranks of the armed forces. He said that 60 percent of the party members serve in the army, police and the state information services. Besides that, a large number of party members and members of the democratic youth organisation form the nucleus of the defenders of revolution, self-defence groups and soldiers of revolution.

He noted that today the Afghan women are valoriously taking part in the combat against the counter-revolution.

Babrak Karmal stated that a large number of former bandits have repented their past actions, and have come to the side of the DRA and now cooperate with the state organs in fighting the enemies of revolution.

Speaking on the subversive actions of the counter-revolution, general secretary of the PDPA CC said that the counter-revolution has arsoned or destroyed tens of mosques, 30 hospitals and health centres and 1814 schools, i.e. half the number of schools of the country. The counter-revolution obstructs the economic progress of the country and endeavours to keep the country in poverty and backwardness and to revive the system of the medieval age. The saboteurs are committing every kind of ominous acts. The counter-revolution has inflicted damages to Afghanistan amounting to 35 billion afghanis. This amount is equal roughly to half of the total investment in the economic growth of the country in the last 20 years.

Emphasizing the need for suppressing the counter-revolutionaries more vigorously and actively, Babrak karmal said that the counter-revolution has not become more powerful but that they are breathing their last breath and are being crushed. The leaders of the counter-revolution are not able to organise big military operations. Their tactics are directed toward making attacks on the communications, destroying the enterprises and blackmailing of the people. We have all the possibilities to bring about a decisive defeat to the counter-revolution.

Dwelling also in his speech on questions of creating and strengthening local organs of state power, Babrak Karmal stressed that the creation of new local organs and the drawing of the extensive masses of the working people in daily activity is a necessary task in order to expose the counter-revolution, who have covered their faces with masks, to take them out from their hideout and to emasculate their ominous plots. The president of the Revolutionary Council stated that the local organs of the state power are not only the organs of power but they are the organs of administration also. These organs are dutybound to undertake the administration of localities and to be responsive in respect of industrial and agricultural production, constructional work, transport and communication work, education, public health and other spheres. The organs must tackle all the local socio-economic problems and organise to the extent possible and

with self-reliance the provision of the necessary materials to the local population.

Speaking on the results of the implementation of the economic programmes, Babrak Karmal said that the plan of industrial production of the country has been fulfilled by 101 percent during the past nine months of the current Afghan year. As compared with the same period of the last Afghan year, the gross national product in the state and mixed sectors has risen by 25 per cent or equivalent to two billion afghanis.

According to preliminary estimates if all the sectors, departments and ministries complete their assignments, these indices will reach to the level of 1979-80. Of course, it may be recalled that it was after 1979-80 that as a result of the counter-revolutionary actions the level of production had considerably decreased.

Refugees Appeal to UN Secretary General

LD060803 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 5, BAKHTAR — Message sent to the United Nations general secretary by the committee of the patriotic Afghan citizens residing in Pakistan on the settlement of the Afghan refugees' problem.

His excellency the president: Allow us first of all to express sincere gratitude of the committee of patriotic Afghan citizens residing in Pakistan for your humanly endeavors for the restoration of the situation around Afghanistan and the settlement of Afghan refugees' problem.

We are convinced that an ingenious diplomat such as you will conduct to the safe [as received] the fate of thousands of Afghan fugitives who live in poverty, hunger, destitution, unemployment and disease in the confinements named the "camps" in Pakistan.

At the outset we would like to bring to your attention the fundamental cause of the immigration of Afghans to Pakistan: Afghanistan is a country having a lengthy rugged and mountainous border with Pakistan and this border has never been closed in the course of history and has always been used as a cross road of movements by the tribemen and nomadic people.

After the April Revolution of 1978 in Afghanistan when the anti-Afghan policy of the U.S. imperialism was laid bare in the initial stages, Americans in collaboration with the military rulers in Pakistan and their own professional agents set in motion a massive police persecution of all frontier tribesmen, ethnic groups and Afghan nomads who had provisionally resided in Pakistan, and prevented them to return to their place of origin, Afghanistan, in conformity with their tribal traditions.

In the second stage with the formation of different bandit groups of so-called Islamic nature they led all their friends and relatives who were under American and Pakistani bondage to a forceful displacement in collusion with feudal lords, usurers, compradors, reactionaries and traitors to the nation who had lost their privileges under the April Revolution. In the third stage the self-style Islamic bands, grasping the possibilities provided by

imperialists, the mischievous and deceitful American imperialists in particular, they deceived a number of illiterate and politically ignorant people by the farce as if Islam was in danger and exported them to Pakistan; and thus the immigrants of Afghan citizens, who never knew what they did and what destiny was awaiting them, were displaced. Various fugitives' camps were being formed under the direct supervision of American, Chinese, Pakistani and Egyptian military experts, as they are to be despatched for subversion, theft, piracy and terror inside Afghanistan after receiving military training; and thus the first batch of the armed terrorist groups of saboteurs were being sent to Afghanistan in May 1978.

The military rulers in Pakistan in collusion with mischievous U.S. imperialism not only manipulate Afghan refugees in the person of so-called Islamic group formations for subversion in Afghanistan, but in the meantime they widely use them as an instrument for attaining their own humane and vicious goals of international terrorism.

The Afghan refugees are used as an instrument for aggressive aims against the non-aligned countries, particularly against India in the context of aggressive strategy of the U.S. imperialism, and in Iran too they are being used for feeding the war against Iraq.

His excellency the president, more vigorously than before we call your attention to the miserable plight of Afghan fugitives in Pakistan.

Presently, thousands of Afghan refugees are imprisoned in the confinements named "camps," hundreds of men, women, and innocent children starve to death because of lack of bread, clothes, shelter, and medication and as a result of poverty, hunger and disease every day hundreds of Afghan mothers perish along with their innocent sweet hearts, because of the spread of simple epidemics.

Afghan refugees are policed by the leaders of the bands inside the camps and those who make any slightest defy [as received] of their malicious and inhumane demands are horribly murdered or tortured to death.

Huge amounts of money are being invested in the Western capitalistic countries by the leaders of Islamic bands who live luxurious and prosperous lives, since the financial aids from the foreign countries and international charity organisations to the Afghan refugees are usurped by the leaders of the Islamic bands without being given to the refugees and instead an innocent child of a refugee cries for a loaf of bread as if he never had a homeland and a place to live.

How ignominious it is that the lie-making mass media of American imperialists call these predatory professional murderers as leaders of refugees and give them a free hand in determining the destiny of the refugees.

Frankly speaking, 95 percent of Afghan refugees aspire for returning to their homeland, but as one of them decides so, he is arrested by the Pakistani police and thrown into the jails and

tortured to the extent so as to be turned into a telling lesson to the others.

Freedom and humanity is [as received] cried for in imperialist mouth pieces, but not a single word is spoken about what freedom, what humanism, should an individual being barred from returning to his home land be called humanism and freedom?

His excellency the president, what information the United Nations Organization is flooded with concerning the living conditions of Afghan fugitives and their demands are, but false and farce. Only misinformation and forged figures invented by the band leaders and the military government of Pakistan are given to the United Nations delegations or those from international charity organizations who come to visit Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The refugees themselves are unable to have any access for revealing facts about their lives and demands. Indeed Afghanistan is a free independent and Islamic country and her domestic problems must be tackled without any alien interference. The assertion as if Afghanistan has been invaded by the Soviet Union is totally false. We have come to realize that the Soviet Union has been, is and will be a true friend of Afghan people. Her assistance rendered to revolutionary Afghanistan taking from the times of gaining its independence from the British colonialist, it has incessantly been continued and this has never been a fresh phenomenon in the life of Afghan people. [sentence as received]

The Afghan people are still in need of this assistance, since we understood that it is necessary to stave off aggression, as the fratricidal war against Afghanistan is still being organized by Americans, Chinese, Egyptians and Pakistanis from the territory of Pakistan.

It goes without saying that we cannot raise our voice of objection against arbitrariness of the bandits' leaders and Pakistani Government, for our lives are in threat? And this is why we resolved to inform the United Nations secretary general of the disastrous plight of Afghan refugees in Pakistan through this message, so as to draw his attention to the problem of Afghan refugees in total conformity with the demand of thousands of them, as well as to the problem of providing the ground for the unconditional return and also to the stumbling blocks put by military government of Pakistan and leaders of murderous bands of so-called Islamic nature on the way of the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.

As a major fragment of this settlement still remains the problem of Afghan refugees and that of their return to their country and the cessation of alien interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, no other way can be genuinely responsive to the interests of thousands of Afghan refugees.

Availing the opportunity once again we express our gratitude for the humanistic endeavours of your excellency directed towards saving the destiny of the Afghan refugees from the grip of ambiguity and the cessation of foreign interference in the internal affairs of our country.

The committee of patriotic Afghan citizens residing in Pakistan.

BAKHTAR Comment

LD061005 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 5, BAKHTAR — Political commentator of BIA writes: The message of the committee of patriotic Afghans residing in Pakistan addressed to the secretary general of the United Nations gives a sorrowful and tragic, but clear and realistic picture [words indistinct] of Afghan [words indistinct].

In the message, the reason for the displacement of a number of deceived persons from the country has been correctly explained and it has been clearly demonstrated that after the triumph of the April Revolution those Afghans who were traditionally moving to and from Pakistan have been barred from returning to their homeland. A number of others were forced by counterrevolutionary cutthroat bandits through pressure, intimidation and a vast campaign of slanderous propaganda, to escape from the country.

The big question is, what benefit the counter-revolution, regional reaction and international imperialism derive from this.

The answer is quite simple. The counter-revolution through forcibly dislodging the people from the country and confining them inside the refugee camps abroad, wanted on the one side to reserve the necessary human force for their criminal activities against the revolutionary state and the patriotic people of the DRA, and on the other side, to discredit the revolutionary state before the world public. Thus they want to create an atmosphere of poisonous propaganda against the government of the DRA.

There are facts testifying that the Afghan refugees who are kept as captives in the camps of Pakistan are extensively being used against the movement of the Pakistani people for restoration of democracy.

The unrestrained activity of the counter-revolutionary bands and the unlimited freedom which are given to them by the military regime jeopardized the security of the region including the security of India. The military regime of Islamabad wishes to use the Afghan refugees extensively against India with the help of the counter-revolutionary bands.

The world imperialism led by U.S. imperialism has created the so-called issue of Afghan refugees and is using it as a tool against the DRA and the Soviet Union.

The real solution of the refugees' issue demands that all the interventions and aggressions against the DRA must be ceased and thousands of deceived Afghan refugees should be allowed to return to their homeland without any hindrance from the counter-revolutionary bands, the military regime of Islamabad and their CIA advisors.

SPA: Nearly 350 Killed by Soviet Bombing in Kandahar
LD041444 Riyadh SPA in English 1211 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 4, SPA — Nearly 350 Afghan civilians were killed and hundreds injured by the Soviet bombing in Kandahar Province in south-eastern Afghanistan on February

14-16, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS reported here last night.

The agency said (Arghandhab) County and (Khawaja Malik) area north of Kandahar became target of the Soviet bombing without any provocation whatsoever on the part of the mujahideen.

Kandahar city, second largest in Afghanistan, is still dominated by the mujahideen and the Soviet aerial bombing on surrounding areas was apparently aimed at cutting off mujahideen's links with the city.

Karachi on 'Severe Clashes' in Kandahar, Meydan
BK060842 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Reports of severe clashes between the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet-backed Karmal forces have been received from Kandahar and Meydan in Afghanistan. According to reporters, even after heavy attacks, the Karmal forces failed to oust the Afghan mujahidin from their strongholds. Brutal air strikes were also carried out on the mujahidin during that time. The mujahidin inflicted both human and material losses upon the Karmal and Soviet forces.

According to other reports, the Soviet soldiers have launched a major offensive in the strategic Panjsher Valley.

Security Forces' Operations Against Rebels Cited
LD021729 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] As a result of operations carried out by the security forces in the (Uzbin) area of Sarowbi District, 53 rebels have been killed and 8 arrested.

According to another report, 20 rebels were killed in operations in Gozareh District, Herat Province, and a quantity of their weapons were destroyed.

In operations carried out by the heroic security forces in Laghman Province, a number of rebels were killed and three were arrested.

A number of armed rebels were arrested in Bagram District, Parvan Province, in operations carried out by the brave security forces of that province.

Further Arrests

LD031815 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] A group of rebels with their ringleaders were crushed in Sorkh village, Aqchah District, Jowzjan Province, by the provincial security forces. A provincial spokesman said 31 of these criminals were arrested. Seized were 30 various weapons, 4,562

rounds of ammunition, 44 hand grenades, 4 antitank mines, 6 motorcycles, 5 binoculars, and 21 horses.

According to a report from Jalalabad, a number of the counter-revolutionary elements who had been robbing motor vehicle passengers along the public highway between Towr Kham and Jalalabad were wiped out by the security forces of (Shinwar) district, Nangarhar Province. One rocket launcher, 2 weapons, and a quantity of ammunition were seized from them.

Konduz Encounters

LD051759 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] A number of counterrevolutionary elements who were disrupting the peaceful life of the toiling people of Khanabad District, Konduz Province, were recently crushed by the country's vigilant security forces and that province's revolutionary defense groups. The counterrevolutionaries' ringleader, known as Modir Majid, was killed.

A security source of that province said that the security forces seized 2 rocket launchers, 2 DShK's, 17 weapons of various types made in the United States and China, 3,200 rounds of ammunition, and a quantity of propaganda leaflets. Also, two nests of rebels were destroyed in Khanabad District as a result of this heroic operation.

According to another report, in a recent encounter, the security forces killed a number of rebels including their leader, Gol Mohammad, in Aliabad Subdistrict, Konduz Province, and seized one Chinese Kalashnikov and a large quantity of ammunition.

Voice of Islamic Revolution Reports on Fighting

Intelligence Head Killed

GF040858 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Our fighting Muslim brothers in several recent operations in various regions of our Islamic country have inflicted heavy losses of men and material on the Soviet-puppet regime forces. A Soviet helicopter was downed by mujahidin fire when it attempted to bomb mujahidin positions. The Muslim fighters in another clash in [name indistinct] County of Farah Province inflicted considerable loss of life and material on the Soviet-puppet regime forces. In this clash, 14 enemy soldiers were killed, including the chief of the Karmal intelligence organization. The mujahidin also destroyed a government building in the area and captured 45 weapons of various types from the enemy.

In the wake of mujahidin successes, security measures around the Soviet Embassy have been further tightened.

Spring War Preparations

GF031239 (Clandestine) *Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari* 1716 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Our Muslim and powerful forces who consider armed conflict with the invading Soviet forces as one of their duties have come into the state of a full alert, especially since spring is approaching. Our Islamic brothers have prepared themselves for a general and strategic attack in the areas of Kabul, Kandahar, Faryab, and the northern regions.

This is the present state of affairs throughout Afghanistan and in this way a wide-scale and long-range attack would be sufficient in the areas occupied by the Soviets to crush the forces of this superpower. Preparations for this big and strategic attack are already in progress.

This month, our Muslim mujahidin have again created an epic in the city of Kabul in honor of our martyrs of 1979, in spite of the fact that on the night of the attack the Soviet and Karmal forces had taken strict security measures inside and around the city of Kabul. The Karmal and Soviet forces were making their security rounds of the city on the roads and avenues, but in spite of these military measures our Muslim brothers, in an heroic attack, were able to set fire to the Soviet Embassy building which was being guarded by tanks and armored vehicles.

Battles Near Kandahar, Jalalabad

GF041836 (Clandestine) *Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari* 1716 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Excerpts] According to our news sources, heavy battles are currently in progress in various parts of our homeland including areas close to Kandahar and Jalalabad. These reports indicate that, so far, our Muslim revolutionaries have shot down one

helicopter of the aggressive Soviet forces and have killed three of its crew. Our Muslim revolutionaries also inflicted some damage on a number of military units of the puppet government forces and the aggressors and captured 7 of them after killing 27 government soldiers and officers.

Our Muslim mujahidin stationed in Ranginkuh in (?Farah) Province attacked [words indistinct] early last month and managed to kill 14 government and occupation forces' soldiers. The head of the espionage organization of (?Bakua) was among those killed in the attack. The attack also managed to destroy the military headquarters there and a quantity of arms and ammunition was taken by the Muslim mujahidin who suffered no losses during the attack.

According to our sources, the Soviet occupation forces have airdropped large quantities of mines of various types in order to stop movement by our Muslim mujahidin and in order to murder our Muslim women and children. Some of these mines look like toys. Our compatriots and Muslim mujahidin should note this satanic, filthy enemy trick and not touch any suspicious objects.

Attack on Convoy

GF060607 (Clandestine) *Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari* 1716 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Our Muslim revolutionaries attacked a convoy of the Soviet occupation forces which was transporting soldiers to Kabul in the northern parts of our Islamic homeland. Even though the occupation soldiers of the Red Army strongly defended the convoy with heavy machine guns, our Muslim revolutionaries opened heavy machine gun fire against the convoy and hit three soldiers.

AFP: Police Detain Prominent Politicians*BK051424 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 5 Mar 84*

[Text] Dhaka, March 5 (AFP) — Police have arrested Rafiqul Islam, a top leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), as a crack down on opposition to the military-run government continues, family sources said here today.

Meanwhile a total of 716 candidates out of 2,284 who filed to run in the upazilla, or sub-district, elections withdrew from the race yesterday, election commission sources said. That leaves the number of contestants in the March 24 polling at 1,568, with no one running in 23 sub-districts, sources said. Candidacies in 17 of these districts were left vacant as a result of yesterday's withdrawals. Yesterday was the last day for withdrawing candidature for the 460 upazilla chairmanships.

Mr. Rafiqul, a lawyer, is the publicity secretary of the BNP founded by late President Ziaur Rahman, assassinated in May 1981. The BNP is a component of a seven-party opposition alliance.

Earlier, Begum Khaleda Zia, widow of the assassinated president and acting chief of the BNP, had been put under house arrest. Party officials said she was barred from meeting outsiders and that telephones to her home have been disconnected.

Hasina Wajed, president of the Awami League which leads a 15-party opposition alliance, was also put under house arrest Wednesday, on the eve of a nationwide general strike. This had been called by the opposition to force the government to postpone the controversial upazilla elections. The two alliances have called for a boycott of the polling.

Another two prominent politicians have also been reportedly held: Shah Azizur Rahman of the BNP and Abdul Mannan of the Awami League. The government has yet to make an announcement about the two men, but family and party sources

said that they had been put under detention for a month under the Special Powers Act.

Alliances Organize 'National Mourning Day'*BK051557 Hong Kong AFP in English 1547 GMT 5 Mar 84*

[Text] Dhaka, March 5 (AFP) — Bangladesh's two major opposition alliances joined forces in a public rally for the first time today in organizing a countrywide "national mourning day" in memory of people killed during recent political disturbances.

Supported by the Central Students' Action Committee, the two alliances held a prayer for the dead in front of the central martyrs' memorial on the Dhaka University campus.

Later, the 15-party alliance and the seven-party combine organized a large procession led by top opposition and student leaders.

Earlier in the day relatives of Rafiqul Islam, a top leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), reported that he had been arrested by police as part of an ongoing crackdown on opposition to the military-run government.

Delhi Report*BK060406 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Mar 84*

[Text] In Dhaka, at least 5,000 students and university teachers are reported to have defied martial law orders. They had assembled at the campus of Dhaka University to mourn the death of students and a trade union leader killed in clashes with police during the strike. Mass prayer meetings in Dhaka and other parts of the country were also held as part of a mourning day called by two major opposition alliances to protest against the alleged police atrocities.

AFP: Gandhi Says General Election in November
BK060705 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi, March 6 (AFP) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has said that a general election to the national parliament will be held in November, the English-language *STATESMAN* reported today.

It quoted the premier as telling a group of members of her Congress (I) Party, who had come here from Calcutta, that preliminary preparations would start later this month.

The general election is due early next year, but several Indian commentators said that Mrs Gandhi might bring it forward.

This was the first time that Mrs Gandhi has reportedly mentioned a date for the election, the paper said.

The last general election held in January 1980 saw Mrs Gandhi's return to power after a brief rule by the Janata (People's) Party. Since then the Congress (I) has lost a lot of ground to regional parties in southern India.

Reportage on Soviet Defense Minister's Visit

Dinner Speeches

BK060427 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have expressed concern over the increasing militarization of the Indian Ocean and induction of sophisticated weapons in India's neighborhood.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, in New Delhi last night, the Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, said that his country appreciates the need for India to strengthen the defense to safeguard its independence. He said Moscow wants to see India a strong nonaligned country advocating peace in Asia and the world.

Referring to the deployment of missiles in Western Europe, Marshal Ustinov said that the whole world is being pushed toward a nuclear war. The Soviet Union has been doing its best to preserve peace and it took part in the disarmament talks in Stockholm with the same intention.

About relations with India, the Soviet minister said friendly cooperation between the two countries has brought impressive results.

Mr Venkataraman said that India is determined to continue its efforts to diminish tension in its neighborhood and promote harmony in the area. He said we are taking steps toward increased cooperation in economic and other fields. He particularly referred to the efforts made by India under the leadership of the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, who is the chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement. Mr Venkataraman expressed thanks for the continued Soviet assistance in building India's defense and hoped that it will grow further.

Soviet Coverage

For Soviet coverage of USSR Defense Minister Ustinov's visit to India, see the South Asia section of the 5 March Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Rao Discusses Regional Security Situation

BK060930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has said that tension has increased in the Indian Subcontinent because of the induction of arms in the area by outside powers. He particularly referred to the supply of increasingly sophisticated U.S. arms to Pakistan.

Mr Narasimha Rao was replying to a calling attention motion moved by Mr (Jaspal Singh), Lok Dal, and others regarding the reported move for the establishment of military bases in Pakistan and Bangladesh by the United States. He said both Bangladesh and Pakistan have denied such reports. The government has been given to understand by U.S. officials that the United States has not asked for any base in Pakistan nor has it any interest in acquiring such facilities in Bangladesh. The minister, however, assured the house that, the matter being of utmost concern to India, the government will continue to watch such developments carefully. He said India is concerned about the supply of arms and stands for reducing tension in the area.

Mr Narasimha Rao told the house that India has good relations with her neighbors. Cooperation has been strengthened in several areas with these countries. In this context, he also referred to the efforts being made through the South Asian Regional Cooperation Council to strengthen cooperation in various fields.

During the discussion, members expressed concern at the reported moves by the United States to acquire bases in the area. They also expressed concern at the supply of sophisticated U.S. weapons to Pakistan.

Defense Minister on 'Threat' of Pakistani Airstrips

BK061026 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The defense minister has said the airstrips constructed in the Pakistan-occupied area of Gilgit and Skardu pose a direct threat to the Ladakh area. He told the Rajya Sabha today that adequate measures in and around Leh, however, have been taken to meet the threat. The government is keeping the watch on all developments having a bearing on the country's security. Appropriate measures are being taken from time to time to ensure enough defense preparedness.

Replying to a supplementary, Mr Venkataraman said the government has no confirmation about the deployment of sophisticated weapons by Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir border. Some aircraft have been positioned at strategic points to counter the threat.

The defense minister refuted the charge of discrimination against any category of defense pensioners under the liberalized pension scheme. Those not satisfied with the scheme can get their pension calculated according to the court's judgment, he said.

Prohibitory Orders Promulgated in Karnataka

BK060410 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT

6 Mar 84

[Text] In Karnataka, prohibitory orders have been promulgated in several parts of old Mysore district following agitations and violent incidents protesting against the assault on cine actor Rajkumar in Ooty recently. While Kolar observed a bundh [strike] yesterday, there were violent incidents in Bangalore city. As reported earlier, Karnataka assembly was adjourned yesterday amidst unruly scene following a dharna [sit-in] by the Karnataka Kranti Ranga members.

Reportage on PRC President's Visit**Zia-Li Xiannian Talks**

*BK051527 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
5 Mar 84*

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Li Xiannian held first-round talks in Islamabad this afternoon. The Pakistani president was assisted in the talks among others by the federal ministers for foreign affairs, finance, defense, and information and broadcasting. The Chinese president was assisted by the vice premier of the State Council, Tian Jiyun; the vice minister of foreign affairs, Gong Dafei; the vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Zheng Tuobin; and the vice minister of public security, Tao Siju.

It is understood that during the talks views were exchanged on bilateral relations, the regional situation — especially the Afghanistan — the Middle East, and international matters of mutual interest.

Banquet Speeches

*BK051740 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
5 Mar 84*

[Text] China and Pakistan have reiterated that a peaceful and political settlement in Afghanistan and Kampuchea can be achieved only on the basis of unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces, restoration of their sovereignty, and guarantee for their independence. The reiteration was made by the presidents of Pakistan and China at a banquet hosted by General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in honor of Mr Li Xiannian in Islamabad tonight.

The Chinese president said armed occupation of Afghanistan and Kampuchea by foreign troops has not only inflicted untold miseries on the local people, but also endangered peace and stability in Asia. He said the Afghan and Kampuchean people have carried out a resolute struggle under difficult conditions and one with support and sympathy of all justice-loving countries. Facts show that the hegemonists, either global or regional, will not succeed in their attempts to conquer any independent country by force of arms and that no force on earth can stamp out the flames of struggle to safeguard national independence. He said in their view political settlement will have to be reached eventually with both the Afghan and Kampuchean people.

He appreciated the Pakistan Government's and its people's persistent efforts in seeking the just settlement of the Afghan issue on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions and in providing valuable humanitarian aid to 3 million Afghan refugees. The Chinese president said the Pakistan Government, pursuing an independent policy of peace and nonalignment, has always worked for strengthening and development of friendly relations with its neighbors and has striven to consolidate its unity with the Islamic countries. It has resolutely supported the just struggle of the people of the Third World, actively supported the South

South cooperation and is playing a more and more prominent role in international affairs.

Referring to Pakistan-China friendship, he said it has stood various tests and has made continuous progress as a result of the joint efforts of their two governments and people. Both sides are satisfied and pleased with the way their relations have developed. History has shown that Sino-Pakistan friendship has a solid foundation and great vitality. Under the present complicated and volatile international situation, he said they are ready to continue to work with their Pakistani friends for the steady growth of friendly relations between China and Pakistan.

The Chinese president also lauded the major successes achieved by the Pakistani people under the leadership of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in safeguarding their national independence and in building up their country in all fields.

Earlier, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan recognizes that China has not only vigorously supported their principled stand on Afghanistan but also declared that the problems of Afghanistan and Kampuchea are obstacles to normalization of relations with those responsible for intervention in these two countries.

The president said policies of intervention and aggression, expansion and domination continue to imperil the international situation. Dark clouds hang over the future of human civilization in this nuclear age. He said the only way out of this impasse is that the more powerful states should renounce the aim of hegemony and the less powerful ones should join in a common endeavor to secure respect for their independence and sovereignty. He said China, although a great power, has supported the revolution of a just and equitable international order, free from the domination of the strong over the weak and exploitation of the poor by the rich. Pakistan feels proud that in support of these principles, it has stood shoulder to shoulder with China.

About Sino-Pakistan friendship and cooperation, he said these are founded upon established and international principles which all nations should emulate to the advantage of their mutual relations. These are sacrosanct principles of respect for the independence and national integrity of other countries, sovereign equality of all states, noninterference in internal affairs of others, and cooperation for mutual benefit. He said they are resolved to work for the furtherance of these principles so that regional and world peace are consolidated. He said China has been a reliable friend and we are proud of its friendship. It has stood by Pakistan through thick and thin and helped us in times of difficulties besides extending its valuable assistance in their economic and industrial fields.

The president referred to his discussions with the Chinese president this afternoon and said these were both cordial and mutual. He said they had greatly benefited from the Chinese president's observation on the world situation. He said they were convinced that their deliberations would contribute to the deepening of understanding and further strengthening of cooperation between their two countries.

Further Report

*BK060349 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
6 Mar 84*

[Excerpts] Chinese President Li Xiannian has commended Pakistan's independent policy of peace and nonalignment and said that it is striving to promote and strengthen friendly relations with neighboring countries and to consolidate its unity with the Islamic nations. He was addressing a banquet given by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad last night.

Earlier, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan recognizes that China not only vigorously supported its principled stand on Afghanistan but also declared that the problems of Afghanistan and Kampuchea are obstacles to normalization of relations with those responsible for intervention in these two countries.

Referring to the South Asian region, the president said that although attempts are made from time to time from across the border to interfere in our internal affairs and some undesirable and unwarranted statements are made, we are committed to improving bilateral relations and enhancing regional cooperation. He said that despite difficulties, we will continue these efforts. He said that regional cooperation in South Asia is a ray of hope for protection of peace and promotion of harmony in the region and paves the way for achievement of this objective.

Referring to the Middle East, he said that Pakistan stressed ending the war in Lebanon and supported the view that Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab land including Jerusalem is imperative for a just and durable peace in the Middle East and that the Palestinians' rights should be restored immediately.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, he said this has created a danger for regional stability and international peace. We want an early end to this distressing war.

Award Ceremony

*BK060148 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
5 Mar 84*

[Text] The president decorated the Chinese president with the highest civil award of Nishan-i-Pakistan at a special investiture ceremony at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidency] in Islamabad tonight. Conferring the award, the president said the people and Government of Pakistan hold President Li Xiannian and the (?great) country, China, in the highest esteem and deeply appreciate the devoted efforts that President Li Xiannian has made to further strengthen the most friendly relations between the two countries.

2d Round of Talks

*BK061611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
6 Mar 84*

[Text] There was a complete identity of views on all major international issues discussed during the 2 days of talks between President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and his Chinese counterpart, Mr Li Xiannian. The second round of talks was held in Rawal-

pindi today. The issues discussed during the talks included Afghanistan, Kampuchea, the Middle East, and the Iran-Iraq conflict. The two sides also exchanged views on the regional situation and bilateral relations.

The two sides agreed on the need for a political solution to the Afghanistan problem, as in their view this problem not only poses a threat to peace, but is a cause for great hardship for the Afghan people, as a result of which 3 million Afghan refugees have been forced to take shelter in Pakistan. However, the two leaders agreed that a political solution to this problem should be found in accordance with the principles enshrined in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the ICO.

They were also unanimous in their view that the Kampuchean problem should be settled on the basis of humanitarian principles.

The Pakistani president informed the Chinese delegation in detail about the efforts Pakistan has made for a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict. The two sides agreed that efforts should be continued to end this conflict which has caused heavy losses in men and material, and which is feared to escalate further.

The Chinese president appreciated the principled and positive policy being pursued by Pakistan on various issues for promoting peace and stability in the region.

The two heads of state reviewed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the excellent relations existing between the two countries. This is reflected in the growing cooperation between the (? two) countries in various fields. The Pakistan president appreciated China's cooperation and assistance in Pakistan's economic development, especially for achieving self-reliance in various fields. It is worth noting that bilateral cooperation has further grown since the establishment of the joint ministerial committee during President Zia's visit to China in 1982. The progress made in this regard will be reviewed at the next meeting of the committee which is to be held in Beijing in due course.

The Chinese president invited President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to visit China. The president accepted the invitation, and the date for the visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Li Xiannian Interview

*BK061640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
6 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] The Chinese president has said that his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq were very fruitful. In an interview with Pakistani television in Rawalpindi today, Mr Li Xiannian said that during the talks they were unanimous in their views that, with the joint efforts of the governments and the peoples of the two countries, the friendly relations between Pakistan and China will grow stronger and bilateral cooperation will develop steadily with the passage of time. He said that during their 2-day talks, they reviewed ways to increase cooperation and understanding between China and Pakistan on major international issues.

Paying rich tribute to the Pakistanis, the Chinese president said that under the dynamic leadership of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the people of Pakistan have made great achievements in building up their country. He highly appreciated Pakistan's untiring efforts toward establishing peace in Asia and other parts of the world. He reiterated that Pakistan-China friendship is imperishable and everlasting. Mr Li Xiannian expressed his heartfelt thanks to the people and Government of Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and to his delegation.

NEPAL

1 Killed, 15 Wounded in Attack on Party Rally*BK051549 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 5 Mar 84*

[Text] Katmandu, March 5 (AFP) — One person has died and at least 15 were seriously injured following an attack on a rally organized by the banned Nepali Congress Party, Congress leader Girija Prasad Koirala announced here today.

Mr. Koirala, the youngest brother of former prime minister and leader of the Nepali Congress B.P. Koirala, charged that about 400 men had attacked a crowd of 3,000 people gathered to listen to him speak at Surjura village in western lowland districts of Rupendahi and Kapilvastu as part of the Nepali Congress "national reconciliation" campaign.

He said the unidentified men, whom he charged were hired toughs, had attacked the unarmed villagers and party activists for nearly 90 minutes and attempted to set fire to the house he was occupying.

Mr. Koirala said the dead man, identified as Yaday Nath Alok, was seriously injured in the attack and died later in hospital. He did not know how many people had been injured, but had personally taken 15 seriously injured people to hospital, he added.

"This was not political opposition but a master-minded crime," Mr. Koirala charged.

He added that similar incidents had occurred in a number of districts in the past and demanded the resignation of Home Minister Padma Sunder Lawati. He also called for those who were directly involved in Saturday's attack to be punished.

"In spite of all these provocations, we have been moving forward rather cautiously, practicing utmost restraint and patience in the larger interest of the nation," Mr. Koirala said.

Commenting on the reported attack, an official government source said it needed to be "properly investigated."

"We are therefore thinking of sending a fact-finding mission to establish the true nature of the incident," which he said appeared "exaggerated."

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Assures Elections Will Be Held*BK051139 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Mar 84*

[Text] President Jayewardene has assured the people that elections will be held. He said the people will never give up their right to elect their own representatives. He was speaking at a religious ceremony at the (Getemane Puran Vihara Astaniya) in the Beliatta electorate.

Mr Jayewardene said that Sri Lanka is a free country and every political party will have the right to express their views during an election. He emphasized that the president and representatives of the people are a group which respected the principles of democracy. These individuals will not forget the fact that the real rulers in this country are the people.

The president noted that democracy has been preserved in this country since 1948 with the support of all sections of the population. Attempts to subvert this had always been unsuccessful. The conspiracy in the north will also not be successful.

Prime Minister Addresses Public Meetings**Urges Unity***BK261129 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Feb 84*

[Text] Prime Minister Premadasa said yesterday that the problem faced by the country now was not a conflict between the Sinhalese and Tamil communities but a threat to the unitary status and sovereignty of the nation. He said there had been evidence to prove that several countries had provided weapons and financial assistance to certain groups involved in the disturbances. The prime minister was addressing a public meeting which followed the opening of another model village in the Nawalapitiya electorate yesterday. The model village comprises 120 housing units.

Referring to the all-party conference, Mr Premadasa expressed his disappointment that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna are not participating in the conference at a time when all parties were trying to find a solution to the problem.

Mr Premadasa said that this attitude of the two parties was an example of the fact that they did not bother about the unitary status or the sovereignty of the country.

He pointed out that only a small group of the Tamil population supported terrorist activities, while the majority of the Tamils opposed to violence.

The prime minister appealed to all citizens to unite and help the government in facing the threat.

Mr Premadasa described the village reawakening movement as an attempt to ensure the unity of the people.

Views North, East Problem*BK051145 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Mar 84*

[Text] The problem in the north and in the east is not simply one of communalism or religion, it is a challenge to the independence of this country. Everyone, including the Mahasangha [Buddhist religious leaders] and other religious leaders, should unite to meet

this challenge. This was stated by the prime minister, R. Premadasa, at a public rally held yesterday after the handing over of 58 houses in the (Sunilgama) model village in the Polgahawela electorate.

Mr Premadasa noted that there is a vast difference between the terrorist movement in the north and east and the (?1971) insurrection.

The prime minister said that terrorism should be crushed using the Armed Forces but in such an instance the lives of many innocent people would be lost. Only a handful are involved in terrorist activities. The majority of the Tamil people do not approve of terrorism.

The prime minister noted that the all-party conference was convened to find a solution to the ethnic problem and to protect the independence of the country.

Mr Premadasa said that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Mahajana Eksath Eramuna have distanced themselves from the conference and this was something regrettable.

Youths Executed by 'Terrorist Hit Squads'

*BK051107 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 5 Mar 84*

[Text] Terrorist hit squads in the north had executed two more youth in Jaffna today bringing the total to eight executions within 5 days. The body of the 21-year old youth named (Sivapalan) was found this morning at (Pannasara) junction with gunshot injuries. At (Kirinochi) the killers had gone to the house of one (Siskanda Raja), a married youth, and shot him killing him on the spot.

Police sources said that the killings were horrifying and gruesome and the mode of operation indicated that the killer gang was the same in all cases.

Earlier, up to Saturday afternoon six youths were executed in this fashion. Boards saying — you are a traitor, this is the punishment — were found hung around the necks of some of these bodies.

Majlis Speaker on Trial for Saddam Husayn*GF051730 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 5 Mar 84*

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Any verdict issued by a (international) court on the punishment of Saddam will be accepted by Iran so long as the members of the court trying Saddam and their meeting place are acceptable to the Islamic Republic, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today.

The speaker made the comment in response to a question on the matter posed by Sweden's ambassador to Iran, Mr. Goran Bundy.

Concerning yesterday's statements of the speaker on receiving reparations from Iraq and Iran's demand for the trying of the Iraqi ruler, the ambassador asked what sort of tribunal would be acceptable by Iran and whether Iran would accept its ruling.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said this was his personal view and other Iranian leaders had not made a decision on such a matter but of course we will state our views on the members of the tribunal and where it would meet. If it met with our conditions, we will accept any verdict it issues on the punishment of Saddam.

Official Dismisses Mediation, Comments on Hormuz*PM061110 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 84 p 1*

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Gulf Bureau report: "Iranian Assistant Foreign Minister: Mediation To End War With Iraq Out of Question"]

[Excerpt] A senior Iranian official has stated that his country does not see at present any possibility of mediation between Iraq and Iran to find a peaceful settlement of the current war between the two countries.

Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, Iranian assistant foreign minister for political affairs, said in an exclusive statement to *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that following recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war and in view of the depth of hatred between Iraq and Iran, there is no question of his country accepting mediation between the two countries. However, the Iranian official said that the doors of Iran are open to all brothers.

Regarding the possibility of a resumption of the GCC mediation, which is being carried out by Kuwait and the UAE in order to end the war and settle the Iraq-Iran dispute peacefully, Lavasani, who was visiting the UAE for the second time in 2 days, said that nothing new has been put to Iran that could constitute a new approach to dialogue.

The Iranian official asserted that his country is serious in its warning that it will close the Strait of Hormuz if Iraq uses its military capability to strike at Iranian installations, but he said he does not think that the closure of the strait is likely now.

The Iranian official's statement regarding the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has been regarded as indicating that develop-

ments in the Iraq-Iran war and the bombing of KharK Island, Iran's major oil export outlet, have not yet become an issue that might lead to Iran closing the Strait of Hormuz.

Lavasani blamed the United States for raising the issue of closing the Strait of Hormuz.

Regarding his current mission in Qatar and the UAE, he said he has been charged by his government with discussing matters of interest to Iran and these two Gulf states in addition to discussing the current developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

He added that he has exchanged views with officials of both countries regarding various issues.

Foreign Minister Discusses War, Hormuz Strait*LD051957 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 5 Mar 84*

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today reiterated that as long as the Islamic Republic could export its oil through the Strait of Hormuz and as long as "our main and vital interests are not jeopardized it would not close this strait." He emphasised, however, that if Iran was to be deprived of her vital interests in the Persian Gulf and at the Hormuz Strait it would not be committed to any self-reservation. Velayati said despite disputation over Iran's capability, the blocking of the Strait of Hormuz would not be a difficult job for the Islamic Republic to accomplish.

The foreign minister made these remarks in an interview published in today's issue of the evening daily *ETTELA'AT*.

Commenting on U.S. efforts to prevent the fall of Iraqi ruler and diverting global attention from the Iraqi imposed war to the Persian Gulf, he said the same people who had prompted Saddam to attack Iran were now trying to impose a peace upon the Islamic Republic. In this same connection, he said, in order to prevent Iraqi regime's defeat, Saddam and his supporters intended to resort to a new series of adventurism in the Persian Gulf and at the Strait of Hormuz. Nevertheless, Velayati stressed that Iran would condemn the presence of any foreign power in the region and would regard it an open violation of the rights of the littoral states of the Persian Gulf. He said the Islamic Republic being the biggest power in the region and having the longest coast in the Persian Gulf insists that the Persian Gulf and international waterways should remain secure.

Referring to the presence of U.S. and British naval fleets in the Persian Gulf, Velayati reiterated the preparedness of the Iranian nation and government to counter any act of expansionism. He said the United States and Britain were trying to wage a psychological war against the Islamic Republic and that with their presence in the region, they in fact aimed at encouraging their supporters and agents in the region. However, he emphasised that the Iranian nation would never be intimidated by any chantage [as received] from whatsoever foreign power.

Pointing to pro-Baghdad propaganda, and economic and military aid being extended to the Iraqi regime by certain Persian Gulf countries, Velayati warned them to discontinue their assistance

to Saddam because, he said, the Ba'thist regime was already on the verge of collapse.

On the possibility of Saddam's replacement by his deputy, Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Iranian foreign minister pointed out that the type of the future Iraqi Government would be decided by the Muslim Iraqi nation who would naturally demand an Islamic system of government.

Regarding the present status in Lebanon and a proposed replacement of multinational forces by UN troops there, he said because the majority of the Lebanese people are Muslims there is no reason why its president should be non-Muslim. On the other hand, he added, multinational forces had no place in Lebanon any more and that if they would not withdraw voluntarily the Muslim people of that country would force them to do so. He said the UN forces, too, had bungled in Lebanon because among other reasons the Zionist invasion of Lebanon had taken place when those forces were in that country. Therefore, concluded Velayati any solution on the Lebanese problem without respect to the rights of the Muslim people was doomed to fail.

Concerning Syria's new plan for Lebanon, he said that the Islamic Republic would declare its stance after the plan is officially announced.

Foreign Minister Velayati once again expressed pessimism over the possibility of solving the Iraq-Iran conflict through peace negotiations and stressed that after two years of shuttles between Iran and Iraq by peace missions it had now become clear that the Iraqi regime did not understand any language except that of force. Even the Islamic Conference Organisation, he said, did not perform its expected duty on the Iraqi imposed war. Therefore, Velayati concluded that any efforts for a negotiated peace would be useless and unacceptable to the Islamic Republic.

Musavi Refers to U.S. Presence in Persian Gulf
LD061150 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 6 IRNA — Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said here Monday that the Islamic revolution of Iran had baffled the superpowers in the world political arena, adding that the situation the Islamic revolution created in the region was so swift and wide-spread that it prevents the superpowers from formulating any lasting plan.

Speaking at the joint session of the cabinet ministers and governors general from throughout the country, Musavi noted that under present circumstances Iran's victory in the Iraqi imposed war would not be in the interest of the United States.

Referring to the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf, the prime minister stressed that such provocations stemmed from the region's rich resources and the vital life-line the Hormuz Strait plays as a gate-way through which a considerable position of the West's needed oil passes.

"But," he added, "the question will not end here since by diverting our attention and that of our forces, and creating a state of terror in the country as well as in the region, they intended to

prevent us from our decision in dealing a blow on Saddam's regime.

Iran's victory in the war would no doubt change the political equation and map of the region, Musavi said.

On possibility of U.S. intervention in Iran's affairs, the prime minister quoted Imam Khomeyni's statement to the effect that the U.S., which was forced to retreat from its confrontation with a limited number of Muslims in Lebanon, could not take any measure vis-a-vis a united nation in Iran where all institutions enjoyed a real unity.

Addressing governors general, Musavi urged them to refrain from bureaucracy while stressing preservation of close contacts with the people who materialised achievement of victory of the Islamic revolution.

Prime Minister on War, Western Propaganda
LD041206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, met this morning and heard reports on political developments and on the current world and regional situation and latest dispatches on recent advances made by the anti blasphemous Islamic army on the battlefronts where light is fighting darkness within the special Khaybar operations.

The prime minister, citing the guidelines issued yesterday by the imam of the nation with regard to countering and neutralizing intensive propaganda made by Western media as well as those affiliated to international imperialist media, said: Despite all the broadcasting and baseless propaganda, the Islamic combatants are dealing devastating blows to the rotten body of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. They will, God willing, by their deeds, soon prove the true nature of the war to the world.

Referring to the vastness of the Khaybar operations, he said: The propaganda from imperialist loudspeakers stems from their apprehension over the extensive nature of these operations; our combatants, relying on God Almighty, have made achievements on these battlefronts. All these operations are owed to the unpretentious presence of our Muslim nation on the scene.

The prime minister also alluded to the onslaught on the Islamic Republic by the propaganda machinery of the media dependent on American and Zionists: Western propagandists have always tried to misrepresent facts. However, with the passage of time, facts have been properly demonstrated. We know quite well why the propaganda loudspeakers kept quiet about 2,000 Iraq POW's who were captured during the recent successful operations; although these very media were forced to make some sort of reference to the importance of Majnun Island.

The reason for the attack by Western propaganda should be found in attempts of America and its allies to strengthen the shaky foundations of the Saddam regime. At any rate, what concerns us, about which the world ought to be informed, is that no amount of propaganda or aid can prevent Saddam's collapse;

for Saddam's collapse is inevitable and all these aids simply serve to prolong his agony.

Musavi then added: War, war until victory is our principal slogan. Today, our combatants are more ready than ever to carry out extensive operations along the battlefronts, following the latest phase of the Khaybar operations.

In the continuation of the meeting, the issue of preparing equipment needed by the combatants of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces was raised. The issue is to be debated in the next meeting. The meeting also approved some proposals made by some government ministries.

President Vows To Continue Offensive

GF051710 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here today that the current operations Val Fajr-6 and Khaybar would be continued and definitely the tempo of the war would not slacken. He further referred to these operations as highly promising.

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking to governors general from throughout the country further stressed the need for continuation of public mobilisation both in terms of manpower and finance, adding that the issue of war had not yet ended.

The ongoing Khaybar operations, he said, was continuous operation and not a single operation. At present stage of this operation, the Iranian forces enjoyed a good status and a strong defence was put up for the Majnun Islands, southeastern Iraq. He added that further facilities were provided for defence of the islands.

He further reiterated the strategic importance of islands for Iraq and added that Iraq was preparing its forces for an extensive operation to retake the islands. But surely this attempt would be crushed, Khamene'i said. All possibilities that Iraq may deploy to retake them have been studied.

The president, who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, further told them that Iraq had launched massive propaganda to convince the Persian Gulf governments and its supporters in the world that Iran was exhausted. They were thinking in vain that the situation of no peace-no war would be continued and they were of the opinion that Iran would be unable to organise its forces for a massive attack.

However, the recent Iranian operations had destroyed all their calculations. While stressing the continuation of Khaybar operation, Khamene'i said that Iran would not lose its maneuverability throughout the warfronts. Iran did not intend to concentrate in a single part of the warfronts which stretched some 1000 kms. All along the border Iran had the possibility of launching attacks. Iran could attack from any point it wished and would not allow the enemy to concentrate in a single spot.

He further reminded the governors general of the importance of the forthcoming Majlis elections, due to be held April 2nd.

He gave the necessary guidelines in this respect and said that participation of all electorate in the elections was important. This time too, active participation of the public in the election, would further insure the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added.

IRNA: Heavy Iraqi Counterattack Repelled

LD061206 Tehran IRNA in English 1202 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Khatim ol-Anbiya' HQ, March 6, IRNA — A heavy Iraqi counterattack was repulsed by the Islamic forces of Iran in the southern end of the Majnun Islands, southeast of Iraq today.

According to reports from the battle area, a large number of enemy troops from the 25th mechanised brigade and the fifth Infantry Battalion were killed or wounded in their futile attack.

Large numbers of enemy equipment were also destroyed.

The Iraqi forces launched their counterattack at 6:00 a.m., [words indistinct] on attempting to infiltrate the positions of the Iranian Muslim combatants in the southern end of the Majnun Islands.

On Sunday, the speaker of the Majlis, Hojjat ol-Islam Rafsanjani, had warned against imminent heavy enemy counterattacks in the region.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,656

LD051717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1634 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,656 issued by Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, fighting between the tireless fighters of Islam and the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries continued in Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Haji 'Umrān, and Marivan operational fronts in the form of exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire. With the execution of fire over enemy positions and supply centers and by sending patrol groups behind enemy defensive positions, our forces inflicted losses and casualties on the Ba'thist mercenaries, destroying one ammunition depot, one 120-mm mortar launcher, and a number of their foxholes and slit trenches in the Piranshah region and killing or wounding a number of their personnel.

In the Panjwin region, part of the enemy defensive positions were set on fire as a result of the precise fire of the victorious forces of Islam. Considerable damage was inflicted on the enemy positions.

In the western and southern fronts, by carrying out defensive operations and reinforcing their positions, the proud forces of Islam brought enemy positions, fortifications, and supply and communication routes under the sporadic fire of their artillery and other heavy weapons. Also, by sending patrol groups and setting up ambushes, they inflicted effective blows on the Iraqi forces. On each front, they destroyed a number of positions and

armored equipment of the Saddamist mercenaries and killed a number of their personnel.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, by firing at enemy units, the fighters of Islam prevented enemy engineering work and the reinforcing of their positions, killed or wounded a number of Iraqi forces, and set fire to one ammunition depot, one engineering vehicle, and at least four machine gun and mortar launching positions of the mercenaries of Saddam.

Yesterday, Abadan came under the fire of the heavy weapons of the Ba'thist mercenaries. As a result, 12 houses and shops were damaged.

Official Returns From Talks in Damascus

LD052257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Sheykh ol-Islam, political under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who led a delegation to Syria, returned to Tehran today. During the visit, he met with President Hafiz al-Asad, the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs, the deputy commander of the Armed Forces, the minister of defense, and several other political and economic officials of Syria.

Sheykh ol-Islam had talks about expanding existing relations between the two countries and cooperation in fighting imperialism, Zionism, and the reactionaries and described the situation on the fronts of the imposed war and the recent victories of the combatants of Islam. He also met with Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestinian National Council, and Rashid 'Abdollah, minister of foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates.

Materials on Iraqi Use of Chemical Weapons

Injured Flown to Vienna

AU031736 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1710 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Ten injured Iranians were flown to Vienna last night by a special plane of Iran Air. According to Tehran, they were the victims of a war gas attack by the Iraqis. The injured are being treated in the plastic surgery section of the second University Clinic.

According to doctors' opinions, the symptoms of eye injuries and abrasions of the mucous membranes and skin point to exposure to war gas.

Swedish Doctor Confirms

LD040856 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Sweden, Mar 4, IRNA — Five out of a group of 16 of the Islamic combatants, who were exposed to chemical bombs dropped by Iraqi planes in the Khaybar operational theatre, arrived at Stockholm Friday night and were taken to Karolinska hospital

for medical treatment. Other members of the group have been sent to Switzerland and Austria.

A Swedish army physician, who examined the wounds of the injured Iranian combatants confirmed that the soldiers' bodies burns were effects of chemicals. But, he said, it was not easy for the time being to diagnose the kind of chemical they had been exposed to.

The Iraqi regime, desperate due to its continuous defeats in Khaybar offensive launched by Iran's Islamic combatants on Feb. 21, deployed chemical weapons against forces of Islam contrary to all international and humanistic principles.

Approximately 1,000 Islamic combats have been wounded by the Iraqi deployment of chemical bombs, some 100 of whom have been hospitalised in Tehran and visited by a group of 30 representatives of domestic and foreign mass media.

1 Death Reported

LD051435 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Stockholm, March 5, IRNA — One of the Iranian combatants who had been transferred a few days ago to a hospital here for severe chemical poisoning passed away today.

The martyr, who had severe burns on more than half of his body, had been flown to Stockholm's Karolinska hospital along with four other Iranian combatants following an Iraqi chemical bombing in the southern battlefronts about ten days ago.

Ten other Iranian combatants are currently being treated for chemical poisoning in Austria.

More than 1,000 Iranian combatants were poisoned by the Iraqi chemical bombings in recent battle operations against the Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Commander Cited

LD052039 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, march 5, IRNA — The Iraqi regime has implicitly admitted to the use of chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic.

The commander of the Iraqi forces, General Hashim Sabah al-Fakhri told foreign reporters that Iraq did not have any chemical weapons on stock but on the other hand admitted that "if Iraq possessed chemical weapons it would have been quite reasonable if they were used against the Iranian forces in their recent offensive." The Iraqi general's statement, which was also reported by (BBC) correspondent in Iraq, has been published despite skin injuries to hundreds of Iranian combatants as a result of exposure to chemical elements in the past 10 days.

Doctors in Europe who have examined the Iranian victims of Iraq's chemical warfare have confirmed that their severe burns have been caused by chemical poisoning.

In Tehran, diplomats from 65 countries visited wounded Iranian combatants today at the Labafi Nejad hospital and were briefed by doctors about their condition and progress of therapeutic efforts.

Soviet Training Noted

LD060944 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Ankara, March 6 IRNA — Turkish newspaper *GUNES* reported Sunday that Soviet experts are training some Iraqi army units on how to deploy chemical weapons.

The Soviet experts are reportedly conducting the training of Iraqi army units in use of different kinds of chemical weapons at a military school located in the north of Baghdad, the newspaper added.

It should also be noted that Iraq has secured the lethal banned chemical weapons from Britain, based upon conclusive evidence in Iran's possession. Iran has called on the Swedish Government to discourage Britain from continuing the supply of internationally outlawed chemical weapons to the ruling regime in Baghdad.

Also an Islamic combatant wounded in one such attack succumbed to martyrdom Monday in a Swedish hospital.

Media Criticized

LD061131 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0445 GMT on 6 March carries a 12-minute unattributed commentary entitled: "Imperialist Media in Service of Saddam." Referring to the general approach adopted by the world media in dealing with popular movements in the world, the commentary points out that since the beginning of the war between Iran and Iraq the world media have tried to cover up the aggression and inhuman tactics used by the Iraqi regime in the war. There has been a concerted effort to force the Iranian nation to surrender and accept the peace terms submitted by Iraq by giving extensive coverage to the military assistance given to Iraq by various powers in the world. Now, after the Khaybar operations, as a result of which Iranian forces have captured Majnun Islands, and in view of the use of chemical weapons by Iraq, the commentary says that the world media are trying to undermine the victories gained by the Iranian forces.

It adds: "In spite of undeniable documents and evidence about the use of chemical bombs by Iraqi criminals, the voice of the old colonialists, the BBC, quoting an Iraqi general, tried in vain to pretend that the Iraqi regime does not have and never has had chemical weapons. The said commander shamelessly stated that if Iraq had chemical weapons at its disposal it would have used those weapons after the recent attack by Iran, according to any logical argument. The lying BBC is trying to cleanse decrepit British imperialism which has delivered chemical bombs to Iraq for a long time, by making an effort to cleanse the reputation of the Iraqi regime. But, indisputable documents and evidence in this connectin are so numerous that even *THE WASHINGTON POST* has had to quote a State Department official on the use of chemical weapons by Iraq. At the same time, many doctors

who have visited those wounded recently by chemical weapons and have been sent to Sweden and Norway have clearly announced that the injuries to these combatants have been caused by poisonous chemical gases."

The commentary then goes on to repeat that the Iranian nation will not stop fighting until all its conditions for ending the war are met, and all the military aid given to Saddam will not weaken the determination of the Iranian combatants.

Referring to the threats of military intervention in the region by the United States the commentary concludes: "Obviously, any direct interference and aggression by U.S. forces will not result in anything but another Vietnam, with deeper consequences and wider dimensions than the first one for the archsatan and its reactionary allies."

Commentary Views Superpowers' Plans in Gulf

LD061132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2330 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The recent great victories of the combatants of Islam on the midwest and southern fronts, refresh the proud memory of the Fath ol-Mobin operations. Among the glorious victories of the Val-Fajr and Khaybar operations, suddenly the issues of the Persian Gulf, the Gulf war, the Strait of Hormuz, and the presence of the defeated U.S. fleet in this region have been raised. We leave the discussion on the effects of the remarkable victories of the warriors of Islam in the region to another time. This time we will only review the recent threats of the United States and the motives of imperialism in raising a new commotion.

Certainly, it is not the first time that the United States has given a warning about its interests in the region by moving its fleet to our country's southern waters. We have often seen imperialism take similar steps in the past in order to create fear and panic in the region for its own benefit and we have witnessed how it has taken advantage of its fleet as a useless threat. Of course, these fleets were once employed against the Islamic Republic in Tabas, but despite all the predictions and cautions, they fled with shame. It is not necessary to mention that the same fleet showed its presence and muscle power against the Lebanese Muslims too, but they were never effective.

It is the current policy of Mr Reagan to move his fleet back and forth and dispatch warships with guns and threats in order to pretend that he is much tougher than his other rivals in the United States. For instance, he pretends that he is not as soft and kindhearted as Carter and will sort out issues much more decisively. The Grenada affairs is cited as an example of strong action by the present U.S. Government. We do not intend to discuss the present policy of the U.S. Government and the power struggle in that country, rather our objective is to say that the present clamorous issue raised by the United States and other major powers of the world on the closure of the Hormuz Strait and escalation of the Gulf war is nothing but an attempt to mislead public opinion to make it believe that the United States has still a powerful presence and will intervene.

We remember when the sensational issue of the Super Etendards was the topic of world news. How the world news agencies eagerly followed the movement of these Western planes. The United States asked France to be careful and prevent the Hormuz Strait problem from escalating into a world crisis. The poisonous Western propaganda at the time attempted to mislead world public opinion and make out that Iran and Iraq are two crazy countries who intend to endanger the fate of all the people of the region and the world; and naturally the only way of stopping these insane countries is either peace or military intervention by the superpowers; and since Iran has no intention of making peace, then it is the guilty party. Today, several months have passed since the sensational news of the Super Etendards and there is no longer any talk about them. Perhaps there never will be a problem about these planes either.

At present, we are witnessing the creation of a new climate. After the recent victories of the warriors of Islam, the imperialist mass media have once again raised the issue of the Hormuz Strait and its closure.

The main question raised today is this: How far would the United States intervene in the Persian Gulf and would it dare take military action? Obviously, there is no sign of the Russians in this region and the Americans cannot use it as an excuse to take some advantage of the situation. The United States is terrified of the collapse of Iraq. But as to how much risk the United States would take concerning Iraq, the Americans themselves may not know the answer either and they may not be able to make a proper decision. Obviously, the United States is frightened of the strengthening of the Islamic Revolution as a major power in the region. Therefore, it tries to prevent it happening. Iraq's collapse means a severe blow to all the U.S. and imperialist supporters in the region. Thus, if the bang of Saddam's collapse were to create such a big tremor to rock even the White House, then the United States would permit itself to take military action in order to crush this new power of the region.

No doubt, the Russians will remain silent in this case and they will not say anything, as they have shown in the course of the recent events in the Persian Gulf through their hesitant and ambiguous remarks.

Today, no one is in any doubt that the Islamic Revolution is facing a direct challenge from imperialism. Despite the fact that the United States, in the past 5 years, has tried to pretend that the Iranian problem is a temporary and insignificant issue in the region, now it has reached a point where it has to take a decisive stance against Iran. The United States has reached a phase where it has to bare its teeth and claws.

The rival of the United States meanwhile is trying to solve its own problems by the usual give and take, and it intends to share power with its rival. This in itself shows the opening of a new era, the reappearance of the power of Islam in the world. This power has terrified other powers and has revived the golden era of the glory of Islam, as it was in the early Islamic era.

President Meets With Defense Minister 3 Mar

LD031737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Defense Minister Colonel Salimi this evening met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. He reported on the situations in the Defense Ministry and on the battlefronts of the war of truth against falsehood. Mr Khamene'i offered the necessary instructions in connection with the issues raised.

SAIRI Discusses Problems of 'Liberated Territories'

LD050953 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 5, IRNA — The Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Sunday dealt with the issue of administration of liberated Iraqi territories. The providing of the requirements of inhabitants in these territories, including a number of deprived villages, was also discussed.

SAIRI's spokesman, Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Bakr al-Hakim, told IRNA that thousands of oppressed Iraqis are dispersed throughout the liberated territories, freed from the villainous rule of Iraqi dictators in Val-Fajr 5 and 6 as well as the Khaybar operations launched by Islamic liberation forces of Iran.

The spokesman said also that proposals for meeting the needs of the deprived inhabitants of the liberated villages were submitted to officials of political headquarters of SAIRI.

SAIRI Head Briefs Khamene'i on Assembly, Iraqis

LD051156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1037 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] this morning met with President Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. In the course of this meeting, the SAIRI president briefed our country's president on activities of this assembly in its third term. He also presented a report to Mr Khamene'i on the situation of the Iraqi guests of the Islamic Republic and the Iraqis who have been deported from Kuwait, as well as the self-sacrifices of the mobilization forces of this Supreme Assembly.

Afterward, our country's president emphasized the unity of all the Iraqi combative forces around the axis of the SAIRI and the strengthening of the mobilization force of this assembly as the main axis for mobilization of all the Muslim forces of Iraq. [sentence as heard] Mr Khamene'i called upon the combative strata of Iraq to respond to the SAIRI invitation to join their Iranian Muslim brothers in realizing the aspiration of the oppressed nation of Iraq, which is freedom from the claws of the Ba'thist infidels and overthrow of the regime ruling over Baghdad.

As he concluded his remarks, Mr Khamene'i noted this closer appraisal of the situation of the Iraqi brothers and sisters living in Iran and expressed hope for the victorious return of these brothers and sisters to their Islamic homeland as soon as possible.

Election Laws Submitted to Interior Ministry

LD051135 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 5 IRNA — Election laws approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) were submitted to the Ministry of Interior on behalf of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the public relations office of prime minister announced today.

The second nation-wide Majlis election is scheduled for April First, the 5th anniversary of the founding of the Islamic Republic.

Drafting of 14-16-Year-Olds Reported

GF052030 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 5 Feb 84

[Text] We start today's news with a report concerning another anti-Iranian and inhuman action by the Khomeyni regime. The antinationalist so-called Islamic regime will soon bring 14, 15 and 16-year old Iranian youths into military service through a forced draft. This decision was made 2 nights ago by the regime's Supreme Defense Council. It has not yet been officially

announced but the decision which centers on the mobilization of children born in 1966, 1967, and 1968 means that even 14-year old Iranians are now considered soldiers and are not allowed to leave the country.

According to a report by one of our correspondents in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the decision by the regime's Supreme Council for Defense of the Regime [as heard] has been secretly passed to the Foreign Ministry, but they have avoided announcing the decision in the regime's mass media. Our correspondent sent his report with a photocopy of the secret order by the Supreme Defense Council to the Foreign Ministry, and added that according to the decision, even children whose parents live abroad or ill children who may have already obtained valid passports and exit visas prior to this date are no longer allowed to leave Iran and must go to the fronts to continue Ayatollah Khomeyni's war with Iraq.

Another dispatch sent to us by our Tehran correspondent 1 hour ago said that the appointment of "Ali Khamene'i as the head of the union of the so-called Islamic Societies of Iranian Students is another attempt by Khomeyni's regime to officialize the dispatch of Iranian children as young as 14 to the fronts for forced military service. 'Ali Khamene'i's position as the president, chairman of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Regime, and the head of the union of the Islamic Societies of Iranian schoolchildren will make the forced draft of 14-year olds more official.